

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 40 have been amended and claims 2, 7, 8, 12-24, 26, 32, 33, 36, 37 and 41 have been cancelled; thus nineteen claims remain pending: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40 and 42. Applicants submit the amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and as a consequence, respectfully request that the amendments be entered.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 25, 27-31, 34-35, and 38-39 are allowed. In addition, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 8 and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 40 to include the subject matter of claims 8 and 41, respectively. As a consequence, Applicants submit that each of independent claims 1, 25, 38, 40 and claims that depend therefrom are allowable, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowability.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicit an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

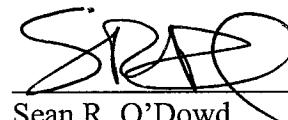
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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